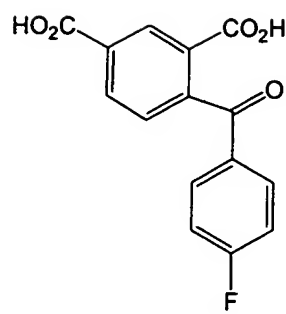


IN THE CLAIMS:

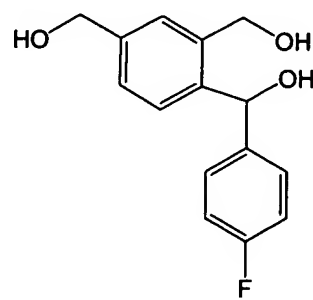
1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method for the preparation of citalopram, which method comprises the steps of (a) reducing the compound of formula [II]



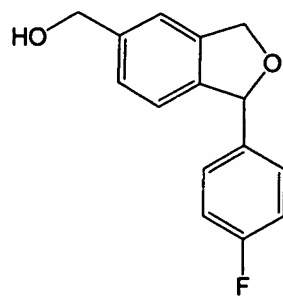
[III]

to form a compound of formula [VII]



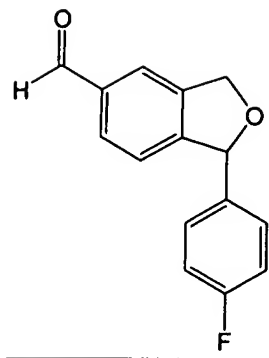
[VII]

(b) cyclizing the compound of formula [VII] to form a compound of formula [III]



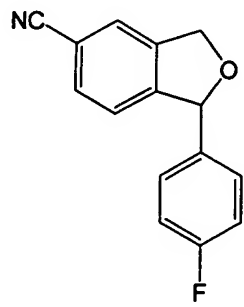
[III]

(c) oxidizing the compound of formula [III] to form an aldehyde compound of formula [V]



[V],

(d) converting the aldehyde compound of formula [V] to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI]



[VI], and

(e) alkylating the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] to form citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the compound of formula [III] is oxidized to form the aldehyde compound of formula [V] by reacting the compound of formula [III] with manganese dioxide to form the aldehyde compound of formula [V].

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the aldehyde compound of formula [V] is converted to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] by the steps of (d1) condensing the aldehyde compound of formula [V] with hydroxylamine or a mineral acid salt thereof to form an oxime intermediate, and (d2) dehydrating the oxime intermediate to form the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI].

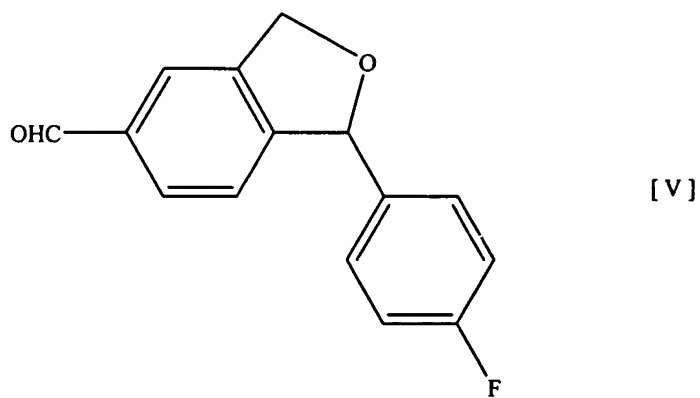
26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the aldehyde compound of formula [V] is converted to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] by the steps of (d1) condensing the aldehyde compound of formula [V] with hydroxylamine or a mineral acid salt thereof to form an oxime intermediate, and (d2) dehydrating the oxime intermediate to form the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI].

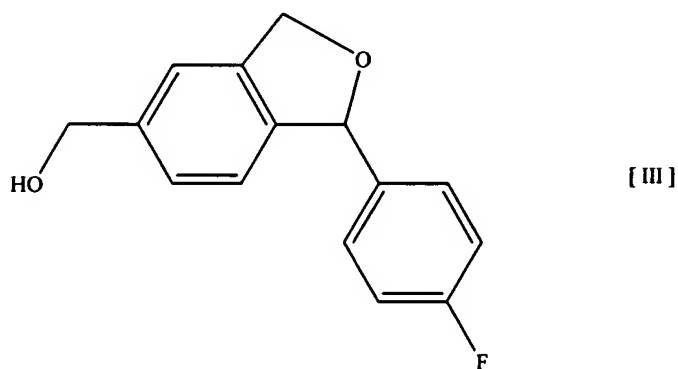
28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

PENDING CLAIMS

17. A production method of a compound of the formula [V]

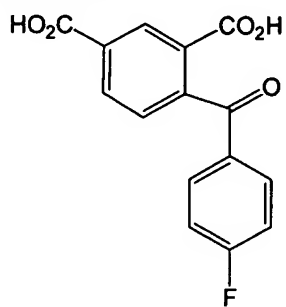


which comprises oxidizing a compound of the formula [III]

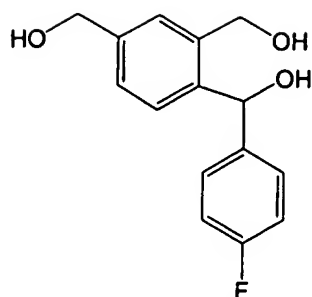


with manganese dioxide.

21. A method for the preparation of citalopram, which method comprises the steps of (a) reducing the compound of formula [II]

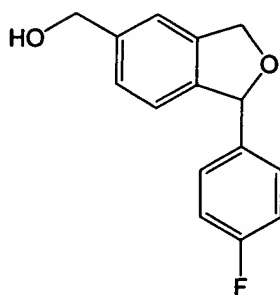


to form a compound of formula [VII]



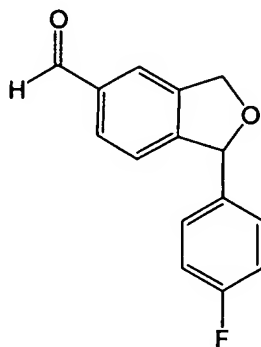
[VII],

(b) cyclizing the compound of formula [VII] to form a compound of formula [III]



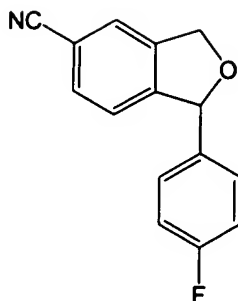
[III],

(c) oxidizing the compound of formula [III] to form an aldehyde compound of formula [V]



[V],

(d) converting the aldehyde compound of formula [V] to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI]



[VI], and

(e) alkylating the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] to form citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the compound of formula [III] is oxidized to form the aldehyde compound of formula [V] by reacting the compound of formula [III] with manganese dioxide to form the aldehyde compound of formula [V].

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the aldehyde compound of formula [V] is converted to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] by the steps of (d1) condensing the aldehyde compound of formula [V] with hydroxylamine or a mineral acid salt thereof to form an oxime intermediate, and (d2) dehydrating the oxime intermediate to form the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI].

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the aldehyde compound of formula [V] is converted to the corresponding 5-cyano compound of formula [VI] by the steps of (d1)

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condensing the aldehyde compound of formula [V] with hydroxylamine or a mineral acid salt thereof to form an oxime intermediate, and (d2) dehydrating the oxime intermediate to form the 5-cyano compound of formula [VI].

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises the step of (f) isolating the citalopram in the form of a base or an acid addition salt thereof.